

Organised gang of muggers active on DU campus

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

An organised gang of muggers has remained active on and around the Dhaka University (DU) campus, but the law enforcement agencies have remained inactive.

The gang robs students, teachers, pedestrians and others of valuables after injuring them almost every day.

The gang has been continuing its operation since the tenure of the BNP-led four-party alliance government, but its members, numbering about 15, have not been staying on the campus since the state of emergency has been imposed.

After sundown, the muggers rule several places on the campus, including Fuller Road, Chankharpool to Doel Square, Shaheed Minar area, Institute of Education and Research (IER), Suhrawardy Udyog, Muhsin Hall playground and areas adjacent to Salimullah Muslim Hall.

ARMS CASE AGAINST HUDA SC rejects govt petition

UNB, Dhaka

Upholding the High Court order staying for three months the proceedings of an arms case against former communications minister Nazmul Huda, the Supreme Court yesterday rejected the government petition seeking leave-to-appeal against the stay order.

Upon a petition, the High Court on May 22 passed the interim stay order and issued a rule upon the government to explain why the case pending with the lower court should not be quashed.

After hearing both the sides, a full bench of the Appellate Division yesterday rejected the government plea.

Dhanmondi police filed the case against Huda, now in jail, on March 8.

Trekking club executives

An ad hoc executive committee of Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club (BMTC) was formed recently at a general meeting of BMTC, says a press release.

The office-bearers are Chairman: Enayeturah Khan, Vice Chairman: Enam Ul Haq, General Secretary: Musa Ibrahim, Treasurer: MA Muhit, Secretary (Expedition, Planning and Training): Sajal Khaled and Club Secretary: Riaz Ahmed. Members are Nur Mohammad, Walid Ashraf Gini and Nishat Majumdar.

Intelligence sources said the criminals take away mainly mobile phones, money and gold ornaments at gunpoint at night.

They also target couples gathering on the campus after the evening, taxicab drivers and rickshaw pullers.

Residents of the university area said the taxicab drivers and rickshaw pullers want to avoid the area after the evening.

Shahbagh police filed three cases in connection with muggings that took place on the campus on May 8, 9 and 23.

Intelligence sources and residents of the university dormitories said mainly junior leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) are involved in drug peddling and mugging.

"Some drug-addicted students and outsiders residing in Zahirul Haq Hall and Jagannath Hall are also involved in mugging and drug peddling," said Akter Morshed, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police

Station.

He said the police arrested Titu, Sayed and Jasim from Zahirul Haq Hall and Sanjib from Jagannath Hall on charge of selling drugs in the hall recently.

Sources said several JCD activists are involved in selling phetidine and heroin. They bring the painkilling injection from Mitford area to sell on the campus while heroin is brought from Bogra and Jessore and Phensidyl from Akhaura in Brahmanbaria.

The gang had used the hawkers and vendors to sell the drugs, but as they were evicted from the campus recently, the homeless people who stay on pavements on the campus are being used in drug peddling and mugging.

Intelligence sources said the members of the mugging syndicate reside in Lalbagh area and engage the street children in mugging.

Although mugging incidents take place almost everyday, only a few

cases are filed with the police, they said.

As drugs are available in certain places on the campus, it is easy for many students to become addicts. In most cases, the drug addicted students resort to mugging to get money for the drugs.

On May 30, the authorities of Zahirul Haq Hall expelled a resident, Toufiqul Islam Russell, as he is a drug addict.

Most looted mobile phone sets are sold to a certain cellphone shop at Hatiarpool, a source linked to the mugging syndicate said.

When contacted, DU Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed said the university authorities depend on law enforcement agencies for maintaining law and order on the campus. "We have asked the police to reinforce their vigilance on the campus."

Cong, breakaway ally set to form govt in Goa

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's ruling Congress party and its breakaway group-cum-ally Nationalist Congress Party are all set to form government in the tiny western coastal state of Goa after elections to the state legislature once again threw up a fractured mandate.

Congress with 16 seats more than in the previous polls and its pre-election ally NCP having bagged three have emerged as the single largest alliance but fell two short of the majority mark in the 40-member assembly.

The state's main opposition BJP got 14 seats three less than in the last elections--while two independents and some regional parties to share the remaining seven seats.

Congress would stake claim to form government once party chief Sonia Gandhi announces who will be the new Chief Minister of Goa. The decision to name the Chief Minister was left to Gandhi by newly-elected lawmakers of the party in the state.

Congress is engaged in efforts to enlist the support of some independent legislators as well those of smaller parties in order to reach the majority mark. One independent lawmaker, who is the party in the state.

After the saffron party's drubbing in Uttar Pradesh polls, BJP was looking forward to elections in Goa for a reversal in its fortunes.

Historic 7th June today

UNB, Dhaka

The historic 7th June will be observed today to commemorate the six-point movement of 1966.

The six-point movement marked by the sacrifice of Sramik League leader Manu Mia and others paved the way for the Bangalis' final struggle for independence in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

This year, the day will be observed in a low-key manner due to the state of emergency and ban on indoor politics.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and the party's central leaders will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at 8:00 am.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Samanul Haq Inu and General Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad described the 7th June as a milestone of the Bengali nationalist movement that ultimately took the shape of War of Independence.

JSD sources said the party has begun an analysis of the reasons for its defeat in Goa as the party failed to cash in on anti-incumbency factor and factionalism in Congress there.

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CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court seized huge quantity of date-expired and contraband drugs from a pharmacy and a maternity clinic at Halishahar DT Road and Lalkhan Bazar areas in the port city yesterday.

The court arrested owner and manager of Messer's Janani Medicine Centre, fined them Tk 30,000 and sentenced them to jail for ten days.

The court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Munir Chowdhury found that the drug store has been conserving and selling contraband and date-expired medicines of 2004 and 2006.

The medicines included different types of injections, antibiotic and analgesics.

Of the medicines, contraband sex stimulating drug like Viagra was imported from India.

The court also seized huge quantity of drugs that are risky for human health from NGO-run Mamata Maternity Clinic at Lalkhan Bazar area after seizing and warned the clinic, sources said.

The deceased was identified as Shakil Bepari, 17, of Katasur under Mohammadpur. He was working at a shoe store at Elephant Road.

Dhanmondi police recovered Shakil's body from the Jafrabad near a factory in the morning and



PHOTO: PID
Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed addresses the inaugural session of a three-day conference of the deputy commissioners at his office in the city yesterday.

'Torture, socio-economic disparity lead to crime, corruption'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists and academics yesterday said tortures and socio-economic disparity in the society lead to crimes, corruption and extremism, which are threats to democracy and harmonious coexistence.

Addressing the issues like tortures and poverty, therefore, is an urgent issue, they said at the concluding ceremony of a three-day training course on management of torture survivors.

Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors (CRTS) and Department of Psychiatry, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) jointly organised the programme at WVA auditorium in the city.

"There are many socio-economic classes where power is being abused and mainly the poor are subjected to such abuses," said former adviser to caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal while speaking as the chief guest.

Violence at domestic levels on the women is not recognised, she said, adding that this non-recognition also creates non-transparency, a major element of corruption.

For example, she said, many women are tortured at domestic level, but as there is no legal recognition of such violence, their lawyers advise them to file a dowry case. "These abuses happen just because of non-recognition of tortures."

Management of the torture survivors therefore is very important.

tant, said Advocate Sultana Kamal, also executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), adding that a person can be adamant to go astray if one feels insecure.

Speaking as a special guest, Bangladesh Economic Association General Secretary Professor Abul Barakat said economic empowerment and change in mindset are major factors for the women to eliminate all sorts of violence against them.

Demanding an increase in the budgetary allocation, he said a national movement should be waged against women violence and all sorts of 'fatwa' (religious edict).

Referring to a study, Professor Abul Barakat said a total of 23 lakh women are subjected to tortures annually that require health, counselling and legal intervention, while a government statistics said the number was only more than 11,000 last year.

He, however, lamented that the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper do not care for addressing the issue of violence against women. "National movement therefore is the only answer."

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Assistant General Secretary Dr Maleka Banu said the women who are actually the partners of development are being deprived of playing their due role in the society.

Ninety percent of the victims are women, she said, suggesting a comprehensive approach to address such victims.

CRTS General Secretary Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan demanded

formation of a human rights commission immediately and creating mass awareness about tortures.

Health Rights and Research Foundation Chairperson Professor Nazmunn Nahar also spoke at the ceremony presided by Professor Abdus Sobhan, chairman, Department of Psychiatry, BSMMU.

Police in a raid on Tuesday seized seven firearms, 263 rounds of bullets and arrested five people from Bangladesh Chemical Complex (pvt) Limited owned by industrialist Engineer Afasruddin Chowdhury, a leader of Chittagong South District Awami League, in Nasirabad Industrial area under Bayezid Police Station.

Meanwhile Mati Lal Debnath, a former security guard of the factory, gave a confessional statement to the Magistrate Moksedur Rahman yesterday as a witness of the seizure of the weapons.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bayezid PS Kazi Matiul Islam said they will continue their operation for more ammunition and firearms, if any, according to the information they would retrieve from the arrestees during remand.

After the arrest at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on her way to Singapore, the Immigration police handed Dolly Devi to Gulshan Police Station (PS). The victims earlier filed a general diary with Gulshan PS.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star at 8:30pm last night that the cheated Garos were about to file a case against the lady last night.

"We had information that Dolly Devi might leave the country. We therefore instructed the Immigration police to be alert about the lady's departure. They accordingly arrested her," the SP said.

Earlier at a press conference, the Garo Christians said Dolly used to go to the Nangrima Christian Garo Church at Kalachandpur at Baridhara in the city in early 2004 and developed a relationship with the local Garo Christians.

She expressed her wish to arrange employment at Singapore hotels and restaurants for the floating Garos in Dhaka. Believing the words of the lady, each of the 46 Garos gave over Tk 1 lakh, but finally they were cheated, Bijoy Richil said in a written speech.

Sangstha has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The unit committees of the Sangstha will hold memorial meetings and seminars throughout the country.

On the occasion, a discussion will be held at the auditorium of Dhaka Taxes Bar Association at 5:00pm today.

Licences of 10 Hajj agencies cancelled for irregularities

UNB, Dhaka

The government has so far cancelled the licences of 10 Hajj agencies and suspended that of 15 others for one to two years on charges of mismanagement and irregularities in last year's Hajj.

The government has also fined 38 agencies from Tk 30,000 to Tk 2 lakh and issued warning notices to 17 others for the same reasons, said a handout yesterday.

"Religious Affairs Ministry has conducted investigations against the accused Hajj agencies in the wake of widespread allegations of cheating and misbehaviour with, harassment of pilgrims and irregularities and mismanagement during last year's Hajj," the handout said.

It said the ministry took the legal actions against the agencies as the allegations brought against them were proved in the investigations.

ARMS CASE 5 arrestees on 2-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chittagong

The five miscreants, arrested on Tuesday with firearms and huge ammunition from an abandoned rubber factory, were placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

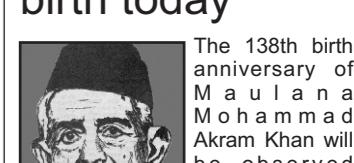
Metropolitan Magistrate Moksedur Rahman granted the remand after the arrestees were produced before the court yesterday morning while police sought five days of remand, sources said.

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Akram Khan's anniversary of birth today



The 138th birth anniversary of Maulana Mhammad Akram Khan will be observed today, says a press release.

Jatiya Sangbadak Sangstha has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The unit committees of the Sangstha will hold memorial meetings and seminars throughout the country.

On the occasion, a discussion will be held at the auditorium of Dhaka Taxes Bar Association at 5:00pm today.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Farida Akhter, wife of former attorney general Aminul Haque, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital on Tuesday at the age of 65.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Aeroplane Mosque at Elephant Road in the city after Zohr prayers today. She will be buried at the new Azimpur Graveyard.

Her qulhwani will be held at her residence at 25 Elephant Road in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the janaza and the qulhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Shah Mohammad Ismail Haq

